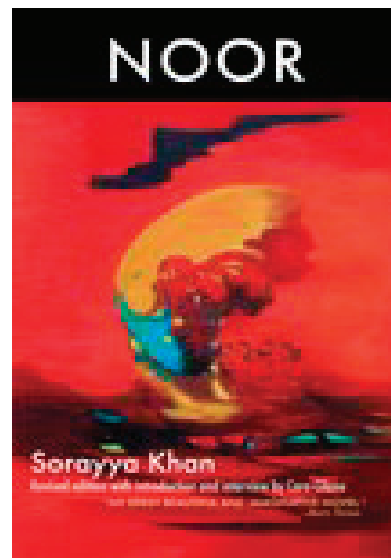


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Noor by Sorayya Khan

Fiction/Women's Studies/Historical Fiction • ISBN 0-9719308-7-2
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***Noor* Now Available in North America** **Debut Novel by Sorayya Khan Tackles the Creation of Bangladesh;** **New Edition Includes Introduction and Author Interview**

First published by Penguin India and Alhamra of Pakistan, Sorayya Khan's lyrical and compelling first novel *Noor* is available for the first time in North America through the University of North Carolina at Wilmington's Publishing Laboratory. The book fills a gap in literature from the Indian Subcontinent that has mostly avoided the subject of the 1971 civil war between East and West Pakistan that resulted in the creation of Bangladesh and saw the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives.

This newly revised version includes a glossary, an interview with the author, and a new introduction by Dr. Cara Cilano, which makes it particularly informative and useful for classroom, book club, and college seminar settings. Readers have compared *Noor* to Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* or Azar Nafisi's *Reading Lolita in Tehran* for the insight into culture and understanding of complex historical occurrences that it provides.

Though global in scope and sweeping in history, the novel is set against a current day domestic landscape, and readers are able to comprehend the complexities of the war and its politics through the interactions between Sajida, her adopted father Ali, her husband Hussein, and her daughter Noor, a child with special needs whose innate understanding of her family is able to break down the barriers that separate them.

Through *Noor*'s artwork, her family members are transported through their haunted memories of the 1970 cyclone that claimed the lives of a million people and the violent atrocities of the 1971 conflict. Moving, heartbreaking, and unsettling by turns, *Noor* is a novel about the horrors of war, the power of forgiveness, and, most important, the strength of the human spirit.

In her introduction, Dr. Cilano, an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a recent Fulbright recipient, writes, "In shattering the pervasive silences around the subcontinent's second Partition, Khan's novel attempts to reconcile history and memory, while holding fast to the belief that silence's end allows us to see what we might have been."

Since its publication in India and Pakistan, *Noor* has garnered praise from around the world. Bapsi Sidwa calls it an "eerily beautiful and imaginative novel," and Claire Messud, author of *The Last Life*, writes, "Rich, resonant and lyrical, *Noor* is a novel which tackles, unflinchingly, the legacy of war, and, like the extraordinary child for whom it is named, makes of great suffering a work of beauty." *The Deccan Herald* of Bangalore, Pakistan calls *Noor*, "poignant, powerful, and tender. [Khan's] writing is remarkable because it is so subtle and so honest." Novelist and UNCW Professor Robert Siegel writes that "*Noor* is a beautiful novel of love, violence, healing and peace. Khan cuts through preconceptions and stereotypes about the Islamic world to give us characters who are breathtakingly alive in the most human and individual of ways- just what we need in this time of global crisis. It should be required reading for every American."

To read more, please visit our website at <http://www.uncw.edu/writers/publab-pubs-noor.html>. The novel is currently available at major online booksellers or directly through the UNCW Publishing Lab.

For more information on *Noor*, contact editor Ashley Talley at eat1167@uncw.edu, or Barbara Brannon, director of the Publishing Laboratory at 910.962.7401, brannonb@uncw.edu, or call the UNCW Department of Creative Writing at 910.962.7063.

Also visit the author's website at www.sorayyakhan.com.



Sorayya Khan was born to a Pakistani father and a Dutch mother in Vienna, Austria in 1962. She spent her childhood in Islamabad, Pakistan and moved to the US to study political science and international studies. Khan has published in numerous literary journals, including *The Kenyon Review*, *The North American Review*, and *The Asian American Pacific Journal*. Her work has been anthologized in several collections, including Bapsi Sidhwa's recent *City of Sin and Splendor: Writings on Lahore*. She won a Malahat Review Novella Prize in 1995 for her novella, *In the Shadows of the Margalla Hills* and was awarded a Fulbright Research Grant in 1999-2000 when she traveled to Pakistan and Bangladesh to research *Noor*. Khan was recently awarded a Saltonstall Foundation Artists Grant to travel to Aceh, Indonesia next spring where she will be working on a creative nonfiction project. She is currently completing her next novel, *Five Queen's Road*, in Ithaca, New York, where she lives with her husband and two children.